GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2845
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
EASTERN GAS GRID
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exploring the possibility of construction of an Eastern Gas Grid to cater the need of Natural Gas for the production of urea fertilizer in Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa;

(b) if so, the present status of the scheme; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to run the fertilizer units in these States future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS

(SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a)& (b): Government had constituted a Core Group to explore thepossibility of import of LNG for manufacture of fertilizers in the country. Based on the recommendations of the Core Group, the proposal forpreparation of Detailed Feasibility Report for the import of LNG for manufacture of fertilizers is being processed by the Government.

(c): Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC)has its units located at Barauni in Bihar and Durgapurand Haldia in West Bengal. Sindri and Talcher units of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) are located in Bihar andOrissa, respectively. The operations of Barauni, Talcher and Durgapur units are lying suspended due to exorbitantly high cost of production and continuing operational losses. The revamp of Haldia project of HFChas not found to be techno-economically viable. Accordingly, it has been decided to close/hive off the Haldia project. The rehabilitation of Barauni, Durgapurunits of HFC and Talcher unit of FCIis dependent on the decision of the competent authority in the Government and the sanction of the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction.